

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced a significant guilty plea today in a narcotics case. Kevin R. Mickens, 37, of King George County, Virginia, pled guilty to conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Mickens faces a mandatory minimum term of ten years imprisonment, and a maximum term of life when he is sentenced on September 30, 2004.

Mickens was a member of a crack cocaine distribution ring operating in the King George area of Virginia. Law enforcement agents made numerous controlled purchases of crack cocaine from Mickens before executing a search warrant at his home.

McNulty stated, "This conviction sends a clear message: drug pushers will be removed from our communities and face many years behind bars."

Also announcing the conviction are Laura M. Nagel, Special Agent-In-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington Field Division; and Sheriff Clarence Dobson, King George County Sheriff's Department.

The case was investigated by agents of the DEA and officers of the King George County Sheriff's Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roderick C. Young.